Examining the Potential in Geospatial Interoperability

Posted by Kshemendra Paul, ISE Program Manager on Thursday, November 8, 2012

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of participating in the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) Thinkers Series, where I heard the perspectives of our industry partners in the Information Sharing Environment. USGIF and my staff have drafted a summary of the key themes of the discussion in USGIF Thinkers Series Vol. 1 [1], some highlights of which include:

Interoperability & Standards

Two important themes were prominent at these exchanges: interoperability and standards. Interoperability across all levels of government and with our partners in the private sector is fundamental to effective responsiveness during natural disasters or national security crises. Shared standards enable interoperability, while also providing an opportunity cost through increased efficiencies.

Geospatial Info Sharing

Within the ISE, we recognize the important role that geospatial information is playing to achieve greater interoperability. Together with DHS, we have established a geospatial portfolio to drive geospatial information sharing across existing policy frameworks and propose a technical reference model to foster interoperability between the civic defense and intelligence-related geospatial communities. You can learn more about this and other groundbreaking initiatives in our 2012 Annual Report to the Congress [2].

Geospatial Standards and GIRA

We?re also working with DHS, ODNI, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of the Interior to develop a strategy to achieve greater interoperability through the implementation of government-wide geospatial standards [3]. The vision?the Geospatial Interoperable Reference Architecture (GIRA)?is a framework for developing new geospatial system investments and aligning existing geospatial capabilities. This initiative was discussed at USGIF?s 2012 GEOINT Symposium [4].

The impact of these initiatives will be an increase in geospatial data and the location-based services that are available through interoperable architecture and standards for front-line analysts, responders, and operators. By sharing these data and services, we can work together to prevent, protect, mitigate, and respond to all hazards and all threats that pose the greatest risk to the Nation?s security. As always, we welcome your thoughts and ideas in the comments below.

Related Blog Posts:
Our Approach to Geospatial Interoperability [3]
Interoperability: A Key Theme at the GEOINT 2012 Symposium [4]
Implementing the ISE: Success in Federal Government Information Sharing [5]
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[1] http://usgif.org/system/uploads/2548/original/USGIF_Thinkers_Dinner_Series_Vol_1.pdf

[2] http://ise.gov/blog/kshemendra-paul/2012-annual-report-released

[3] http://ise.gov/blog/michael-howell/our-approach-geospatial-interoperability

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[5] http://ise.gov/blog/kshemendra-paul/implementing-ise-success-federal-government-information-sharing

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